

**Amended and Accepted Minutes of Meeting September 16, 2009
RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence**

In Attendance: Evelyn Wheeler, Edna Kent, Henry Duquette, Judith Fardig, Robert Butler, Letty Champion, Peggie Malcolm, Bruce MacGunnigle, Paul Robinson, David Kirchner, Lee Teverow, Sally Small

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm by Chairwoman Wheeler

1. Introduction of Minutes June 17, 2009

**Motion to accept minutes as presented by Robert Butler, with
a second by**

Judith Fardig

11 – 0 to accept minutes

2. Discussion on Rules and Regulations additions and changes

· Several minor modifications and additions made, followed by a lengthy discussion regarding 6.4 – Term Limits

· Motion to approve Rules and Regulation addition and changes with recommended amendments, separating out section 6.4 for now, made by Bruce MacGunnigle with a second by Judith Fardig

12 – 0 to approve, motion carries

· Motion to approve Rules and Regulations additions and changes section 6.4 as written made by Henry Duquette with a second by Paul Robinson

8 – 4 to approve, motion carries

- Revised Recommendations for Rules and Regulations additions and changes are attached in a separate document**

3. Report on documentation of Veterans' cards by Chairwoman Wheeler

- All cards have been photographed and put on CD's**
- The cards have been divided by town, and a few Commission members are currently working on transcribing them into an Excel spreadsheet**
- Some cards, especially those for Civil War veterans, have an amazing amount of detail on them**
- More transcription volunteers are needed**

4. Update on website – Henry Duquette

- The original proposal has been reviewed with Kenneth Rahn, and some details were modified, but the framework remains the same**
- A host location for the database needs to be identified because “administrator” access for users other than Ken can't be granted in its current location – the State Archives and Department of Health Vital Records office were suggested**
- Guidelines need to be established for people who wish to submit changes or additions**
- Discussion regarding John Sterling having granted permission to use the data, and that he is still being notified of additions changes, although his changes have not been updated at the original database**

locations in quite some time

- Henry will arrange another meeting with Ken to finalize the proposal as soon as Ken is available**
- Chairwoman Wheeler will look into changing/updating the links posted on RI Gen Web**

5. Chairwoman Wheeler reported that the GPS project continues to move forward – Barrington, Bristol, and Warren are done, and Warwick is about half done

6. Report on City and Town Cemetery Commissions

- All but 9 now have commissions**
- Coventry Friends Group has just started, with 6 – 8 attendees**
- West Warwick is still working on establishing their commission**
- Cranston's commission is doing well**
- It was suggested that a list of all city and town cemetery commissions be added to the Commission's website**

7. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- Robert Butler nominated Evelyn Wheeler for Chairperson with no additional nominees**

10 - 0 for approval, with Chairwoman Wheeler and Vice-Chair Malcolm abstaining

- Robert Butler nominated Peggie Malcom for Vice Chairperson with no additional nominees**

11 – 0 for approval with Vice-Chair Malcolm abstaining

8. Other Business

- a. Work on the clean up and restoration of Locust Grove, continues, with the help of the Indian Council - the project ends in 9 days**
- b. Pegée Malcolm reported that the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission met with Rhode Island Airport Corporation President, Kevin Dillon, regarding the airport expansion possibly impacting four historical cemeteries. Essentially they were told that it is too early to be able to determine what impact the expansion might have on the cemeteries.**
- c. Warwick DPW will make signs, but questions regarding who has the disk to create them**
- d. Sheldon Whitehouse's office contacted Chairwoman Wheeler, interested in trying to obtain some Federal funding for clean-up of cemeteries with Veteran burials. Chairwoman Wheeler has a scheduled meeting later this week with staff from his office.**
- e. Indian Council looking for information on the practical applications of volunteering for cemetery clean-ups, repairs, etc...**
- f. Follow-up with Representative David Caprio needed to try to get the pending modifications of RIGL 23-18 introduced during next session**
- g. Chairwoman Wheeler distributed a draft of a letter to Gary Alexander, the Director of the RI Department of Human Services and the head of RI's Veterans Affairs. Pegée Malcolm agreed to make some revisions based upon Commission member's feedback, and then redistribute for further review.**

Robert Butler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Lee Teverow. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Corbett, Secretary